What is claimed is:

1.   A W-CDMA transmission rate estimation method
comprising selecting a maximum likelihood transport
format combination of a plurality of transport format
combinations representing bit length combinations
constituting a plurality of transport channels, each
having a variable bit length, on the basis of
correlation strengths between a normal encoded bit
string and bit strings of data obtained by performing
Viterbi decoding processing for data, of a reception
output constituted by the respective transport channels,
which corresponds to an arbitrary transport channel, and
estimating a data transmission rate on the basis of the
selected combination.

2.   A method according to claim 1, further
comprising using a plurality of path metric values
calculated in the Viterbi decoding processing as values
indicating the correlation strengths.

3.   A method according to claim 2, further
comprising storing, for each of the transport format
combinations, a maximum path metric value obtained by
using the transport format combination, and selecting a
maximum likelihood transport format combination by
comparing the stored maximum path metric values for the

7 respective stored transport format combinations.

4.   A method according to claim 2, further
2 comprising concurrently calculating maximum path metric
3 values, for the respective transport channels, which are
4 obtained by concurrently performing the Viterbi decoding
5 processing for the respective transport channels when
6 the respective transport format combinations are used,
7 statistically processing the respective path metric
8 values obtained for the respective transport channels in
9 units of transport format combinations, and selecting a
10 maximum likelihood transport format combination on the
11 basis of the statistical processing result.

5.   A W-CDMA transmission rate estimation device
2 comprising transmission rate estimating means for
3 performing Viterbi decoding processing for data, of a
4 reception output constituted by a plurality of transport
5 channels each having a variable bit length, which
6 corresponds to an arbitrary transport channel, and
7 selecting a maximum likelihood transport format
8 combination of a plurality of transport format
9 combinations representing bit length combinations
10 constituting the respective transport channels, thereby
11 estimating a data transmission rate.

6.   A W-CDMA transmission rate estimation device

2   for estimating a data transmission rate by performing

3   Viterbi decoding processing for data, of a reception

4   output constituted by a plurality of transport channels

5   each having a variable bit length, which corresponds to

6   an arbitrary transport channel, comprising:

7   maximum path metric comparing means for

8   comparing a plurality of path metric values obtained for

9   the respective transport format combinations when the

10   transport format combinations are used in the Viterbi

11   decoding processing, thereby selecting a maximum path

12   metric value;

13   maximum path metric storage means for storing

14   the maximum path metric value selected by said maximum

15   path metric comparing means; and

16   estimating means for comparing the maximum

17   path metric values for the respective transport format

18   combinations stored in said maximum path metric storage

19   means, and selecting a maximum likelihood transport

20   format combination, thereby estimating a data

21   transmission rate.

7.   A device according to claim 6, wherein

2   said maximum path metric comparing means and

3   said maximum path metric storage means are provided in

4   parallel for the respective transport channels,

5   said device further comprises statistical

6   processing means for statistically processing the

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 7   maximum path metrics stored in said respective maximum

 8   path metric storage means for the respective transport

 9   format combinations, and

10            said estimating means compares the statistical

11   processing results obtained by said statistical

12   processing means for the respective transport format

13   combinations, and selects a maximum likelihood transport

14   format combination, thereby estimating a data

15   transmission rate.
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